

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-5 and 13-18 are pending in the present application. Claims 6-12 have been cancelled and claim 18 has additionally been cancelled. Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended claim 1 to overcome this rejection and does not consider the amendment to add new matter. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests the amendment be entered. Claims 1-5 have been considered allowable subject matter if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Because the amendment to claim 1 has been made to overcome this rejection, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 1-5.

Claims 13-15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Izumi. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Izumi et al. Claim 18 has been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Consequently, claim 18 has been amended into independent claim 13 and claim 18 has been cancelled. Thus, Applicant believes that this amendment to claim 13 causes the claim to be in allowable form and respectfully requests the amendment not only be entered but also that claim 13 be considered allowable subject matter. Additionally, claims 14-17 depend on claim 13 and for at least this reason are also considered in allowable form. With this amendment Applicant asserts that all pending claims 1-5 and 13-17 provide allowable subject matter and Applicant respectfully requests allowance of all such claims.

CONCLUSION

If any issues remain that may be expeditiously addressed in a telephone interview, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 515/558-0200.

All fees or extensions of time believed to be due in connection with this response are attached hereto; however, consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account 50-2098.

Respectfully submitted,



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